

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a display device;

a plurality of hardware resources configured to carry out image formation;

a plurality of application programs performing respective processing of the plurality of application programs related to the image formation;

a storage device storing rewritable shared data which is used by the plurality of application programs in common; and

a shared-data control unit selecting one or more of the plurality of application programs as destinations of updating-start notification and notifying a start of updating of the shared data to the selected one or more application programs when acquisition and updating of the shared data is inhibited in response to a write-lock request received from one of the plurality of application programs, and the shared-data control unit notifying an end of the updating of the shared data to the selected application programs when the acquisition and updating of the shared data is allowed in response to an unlock request received from said one of the plurality of application programs, wherein

the plurality of application programs include ~~one or more~~ a first application program ~~programs that is currently subject to updating of the shared data by the shared-data control unit and~~ configured to display the shared data on the display ~~displaying~~ device, ~~[[and]]~~ a ~~second one or more second~~ application program that is not currently subject to updating of the shared data by the shared-data control unit and ~~programs~~ configured to ~~[[not]]~~ display the

shared data on the display displaying device, and a third application program that is configured to not display the shared data on the display device,

when updating of the shared data of the first application program is performed by the acquisition and updating of the shared data is inhibited in response to the write lock request, the shared data control unit, an selects said one or more first application programs as destinations of the updating-start notification is sent and notifies the start of updating of the shared data to said selected one or more to the second first application program by the shared data control unit and no updating-start notification is sent to the third application program by the shared data control unit programs without selecting said one or more second application programs and without notifying the start of the updating to said one or more second application programs, and

one of a screen of the shared data of the first application program and a screen of the shared data of the second application program is selectively displayed on the display device

when the acquisition and updating of the shared data is allowed in response to the unlock request, the shared data control unit notifies the end of the updating of the shared data to the selected one or more first application programs without notifying the end of the updating of the shared data to said one or more second application programs.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the displaying device is an operation panel configured to display operational messages to an operator and receive input operational commands from the operator.

17. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the shared-data control unit selects as the destinations of updating-start notification at least one of the plurality of application programs configured not to read out the shared data from the storing device upon starting of the image forming apparatus.

18. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 14 wherein, when acquisition and updating of the shared data is inhibited and a read-lock request is received from one of the plurality of application programs to which a start of the updating of the shared data is not yet notified, the shared data-control unit notifies the start of the updating of the shared data to said one of the plurality of application programs and rejects acquisition of the shared data in response to the received read-lock request.

19. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 14 wherein, when acquisition and updating of the shared data is inhibited and an application use request is received from one of the plurality of application programs to which a start of the updating of the shared data is not yet notified, the shared data control unit notifies the start of the updating of the shared data to said one of the plurality of application programs.

20. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 14 wherein, after the end of the updating of the shared data is notified to the selected application programs, the shared-data control unit inhibits updating of the shared data in response to a read-lock request received from any of the selected application programs to which the end of the updating of the shared data is notified.

21. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the shared-data control unit is configured to include additional information, indicating that the updating of the shared data is not performed, in the updating-end notification which notifies the end of the updating of the shared data to the selected application programs.

22-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the shared-data control unit is configured to receive at least one of an acquisition start request, an acquisition end request, an updating start request and an updating end request from an external network device.

26. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the shared data comprises destination address data which is used by the plurality of application programs in common.

27. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the plurality of application programs include at least one of a scanner application program and a fax application program which use the shared data.

28-34. (Canceled)